

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-10 OIC-04 DRC-01 /230 W

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R 201500Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3068

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9176

1. WE ARE REPEATING GENEVA'S 6283 TO BA AS EVIDENCE MEETING CITED REFTEL WAS ORGANIZED AT INITIATIVE OF HUNGARY, NOT AUSTRALIA. HUNGARIANS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US INITIATIVE WAS THEIR OWN.

2. WE UNDERSTAND MEETING TOOK PLACE ABOUT NOV. 28-29 AND PRODUCED NO RESULTS OTHER THAN CONFIRMATION OF CANADIAN, AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SKEPTICISM ABOUT UTILITY OF THIS GROUPING. HUNGARIANS REPORTEDLY PUT FORWARD HONEY AS EXAMPLE OF RELATIVELY MINOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT OF INTEREST TO NUMBER OF MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT BE LOST SIGHT OF IN MTN BATTLE OF GIANTS ABOUT E.G. GRAINS. IN RESPONSE TO WARNINGS

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BY CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NZ THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF

PARTICIPATING IN A BLOC TO TRY TO PRESSURE US OR EC, HUNGARIANS REPORTEDLY DREW BACK FROM PROPOSAL THAT THIS GROUPING OF COUNTRIES MEET REGULARLY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON MTN AND SUGGESTED INSTEAD AD HOC MEETINGS AT ANYONE'S INITIATIVE WITH PARTICIPATION TO BE DECIDED ON BASIS TRADE INTEREST IN PARTICULAR PRODUCT. HUNGARIANS TOLD US US WOULD BE WELCOME TO ATTEND OR EVEN INITIATE MEETINGS IF WE SO WISHED.

3. COMMENT. MISSION INCLINED BELIEVE HUNGARIAN INITIATIVE WAS MORE RELATED TO THEIR DESIRE GAIN ACCESS TO INNER CIRCLE OF GATT CPS THAN A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE A TEMPERATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER BLOC TO PUT PRESSURE ON US AND EC. HUNGARY'S SUBSEQUENT ADMISSION TO TEXTILE NEGOTIATING GROUP INNER CIRCLE AND CONFIRMATION US HAS NO OBJECTION TO A ROTATING EASTERN EUROPEAN SEAT ON MTN INNER CIRCLE MAY MEAN NOTHING MORE WILL BE HEARD ABOUT THIS EMBRYONIC AGRICULTURAL EXPORTER GROUPING. BASSIN

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